

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /011 R

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SOVIET VIEWS ON MBFR

A SOVIET OFFICIAL HAS EXPRESSED TO EMBASSY MOSCOW THE FOLLOWING VIEWS ON CURRENT MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. FIRST, THE USSR AND THE US WILL FIND IT FRUITLESS TO ATTEMPT TO AGREE ON PRINCIPLES DURING THE MEETING IN VIENNA; RATHER, THEY SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON WORKING OUT SPECIFIC, CONCRETE PROPOSALS; SECOND, THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE ABOUT REDUCTIONS, NOT ASSOCIATED MEASURES. HE ALSO OBSERVED THE TWO SUPERPOWERS SHOULD TRY TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER ON MBFR REGARDLESS OF THE VIEWS OF "SOME SMALLER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES," AND STATED FLATLY THAT HUNGARIAN PARTICIPATION IS OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR HIS GOVERNMENT. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 13949, 11/6.

2. SCHEEL MAKES LITTLE PROGRESS IN MOSCOW

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IN AN FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY BRIEFING, EMBASSY BONN LEARNED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL'S TALK WITH SOVIET LEADERS IN MOSCOW FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON WEST BERLIN QUESTIONS AND BILATERAL PROBLEMS. THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE VISIT WAS

GOOD, BUT THERE IS STILL SOME WAY TO GO BEFORE THE

OUTSTANDING ISSUES ARE RESOLVED. THE GERMANS FEEL THE SOVIETS ARE INTENT ON IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE FRG BUT WILL GIVE NOTHING AWAY IN THE BERLIN OR BILATERAL AREAS. (CONFIDENTIAL) BONN 15983, 11/5.

3. TWO BELGIAN VIEWS ON THE EC-NINE DECLARATION

A. THE FOREIGN MINISTER IS SATISFIED...

AMBASSADOR STRAUZ-HUPE REPORTS FROM BRUSSELS THAT BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE EC-NINE DECLARATION ON THE MIDDLE EAST BECAUSE ALL EC MEMBERS HAVE NOW TAKEN A COMMON POSITION ON THE DISPUTE AND BECAUSE ALL HAVE ENDORSED THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS REGARDING THE CONFLICT.

B. ...BUT A SENIOR OFFICIAL IS DISGUSTED.

EMBASSY BRUSSELS REPORTS, HOWEVER, THAT AT LEAST ONE SENIOR BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL FEELS THE STATEMENT WAS A SELL-OUT TO THE ARABS, AND ADDED THAT THE DECLARATION'S CALL FOR AN END TO TERRITORIAL OCCUPATION APPEARED TO ENDORSE ARAB POSITIONS. HE NOTED THAT AN EGYPTIAN DIPLOMAT, DURING A CALL AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, PRAISED THE DECLARATION SAYING EUROPE "HAD DONE ITS DUTY." (SECRET) BRUSSELS 6311 AND 6312, 11/6 (EXDIS).

4. CANADA WILL BOW TO ARAB PRESSURE

THE MONTREAL GAZETTE OF NOVEMBER 6 REPORTED THAT ENERGY MINISTER MACDONALD SAID IN AN INTERVIEW THAT CANADA WOULD CUT OFF EXPORTS OF REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO THE UNITED STATES, IF ARAB COUNTRIES MADE SUCH ACTION A PRE-REQUISITE FOR CONTINUING CRUDE OIL SHIPMENTS. DURING
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THE SAME INTERVIEW, MINISTER MACDONALD ADDED THAT CANADA WOULD NOT HALT EXPORT OF ITS OWN CRUDE, AND DENIED AN EARLIER REPORT THAT THE CANADIAN RESPONSE TO ARAB PRESSURE WOULD BE TO CUT OFF ALL EXPORTS TO THE US. (UNCLASSIFIED) OTTAWA 2646, 11/6.

5. EAST BANK JORDANIANS MORE HAWKISH

EMBASSY AMMAN REPORTS THAT THERE IS A SLOW BUT PERCEPTIBLE CHANGE IN ATTITUDES OF EAST BANK JORDANIANS AWAY FROM AN EARLIER DETERMINATION TO AVOID HOSTILITIES WITH ISRAEL. TRADITIONAL EAST BANK LEADERS WHO HAVE BEEN THE MOST ISOLATIONIST IN JORDAN NOW WOULD NOT OPPOSE THE CONDITIONAL ENTRY OF JORDAN INTO A NEW

WAR IF THE CEASEFIRE BREAKS DOWN THROUGH ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE. THE FORMER FEAR OF ISRAELI POWER HAS BEEN COMPLETELY DISSIPATED BY THE RECENT WAR. (CONFIDENTIAL) AMMAN 5893, 11/6.

6. TANAKA IN MOSCOW

THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO BULGARIA, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING IN PARIS, HAS TOLD EMBASSY SOFIA THAT THE JAPANESE-SOVIET DISCUSSIONS IN MOSCOW DID NOT GO WELL PARTLY DUE TO PREMIER TANAKA'S PERSONAL BEHAVIOR. THE AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT TANAKA, A TOUGH NEGOTIATOR WHO SPEAKS HIS OWN MIND, SHOUTED AT GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV SEVERAL TIMES, LABELING HIM A DICTATOR WHO COULD DO WHAT HE WANTED, AND SAYING THERE WAS NO EXCUSE WHY THEY COULD NOT SOLVE MUTUAL PROBLEMS. THE TALKS NEARLY COLLAPSED, AND RESUMED ONLY AFTER THE SOOTHING INTERVENTION OF MEMBERS FROM BOTH DELEGATIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) SOFIA 1490, 11/6.

7. KING VIEWS THAILAND'S FUTURE

KING BHUMIBHOL HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR UNGER IN BANGKOK THAT THAILAND FACES TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS. THE FIRST IS THE CONTROL AND DIRECTION OF THE "NEW LEFTISTS" AND OTHER
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STUDENTS INTO CONSTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES. THE SECOND IS A CONCERN THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT MAY LACK THE STRENGTH AND DETERMINATION TO MAKE AND CARRY OUT THE TOUGH DECISIONS REQUIRED TO PUT THAILAND ON A NEW COURSE. HIS MAJESTY STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE US TO GIVE THE GOVERNMENT OUR FULL SUPPORT, BUT TO DO SO IN AN INCONSPICUOUS MANNER WHICH DOES NOT FUEL STUDENT SUSPICIONS OR RUN COUNTER TO NATIONAL SENTIMENT IN THE COUNTRY. (SECRET) BANGKOK 17285, 11/6 (EXDIS).

8. US TRADE DELEGATION RECEIVED WARMLY IN PEKING

A DELEGATION FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR US-CHINA TRADE (NCUSCT), NOW VISITING CHINA, HAS RECEIVED A WARM WELCOME FROM THE CHINESE, ACCORDING TO USLO PEKING. IN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS THE NCUSCT INDICATED TO THEIR CHINESE COUNTERPARTS THEY HOPED TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES, PRINCIPALLY THE EXCHANGE OF TRADE MISSIONS. THE CHINESE WERE CLEARLY IMPRESSED BY THE EXCELLENT NCUSCT PRESENTATION, BUT HAVE NOT YET SHOWN HOW RESPONSIVE THEY WILL BE. (CONFIDENTIAL) PEKING 1341, 11/6.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE219408
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/S-O: PERKINS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750026-1381
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731167/abqcejpn.tel
Line Count: 163
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS
TAGS: PFOR
To: JCS SECDEF
CIA
WHITE HOUSE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005